

Division of Services for People with Disabilities - Budget Cuts Impact Human Services

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If you are a fan of Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, you probably loved this year's legislative session. At the beginning of the session, things looked pretty bleak. As the session closes, we are in much better shape, but DSPD is still facing some big challenges.

First I want to thank every DSPD employee. Your strong work produces exceptionally good outcomes, empowering Lisa-Michele to make strong arguments for us. These arguments resonated at the legislature. So thank you for doing such great work!

As I mentioned, while we are in better shape, we will not escape unscathed. Here is a thumbnail: (1) Our policymaking Board was eliminated so we will need to find new ways to get public input; (2) Our non-Medicaid services were cut by \$265,000 in FY10, affecting about 100 people. We will do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition for the people impacted; (3) Our personnel budget was cut \$300,000, and we hoped that would be the only cut. But at the last minute, our administration was cut an additional \$105,100. And service delivery was cut an additional \$501,900.

So what will this mean? We are going to need to get creative to resolve the new cuts. Every possible option will be reviewed, including reorganization, furloughs, and actual RIFs. More details will be coming relating to how we will implement these cuts.

The bottom line? Our Division will be significantly impacted by the legislative cuts. But I am confident that we will re-tool to meet the challenges and emerge stronger than ever.